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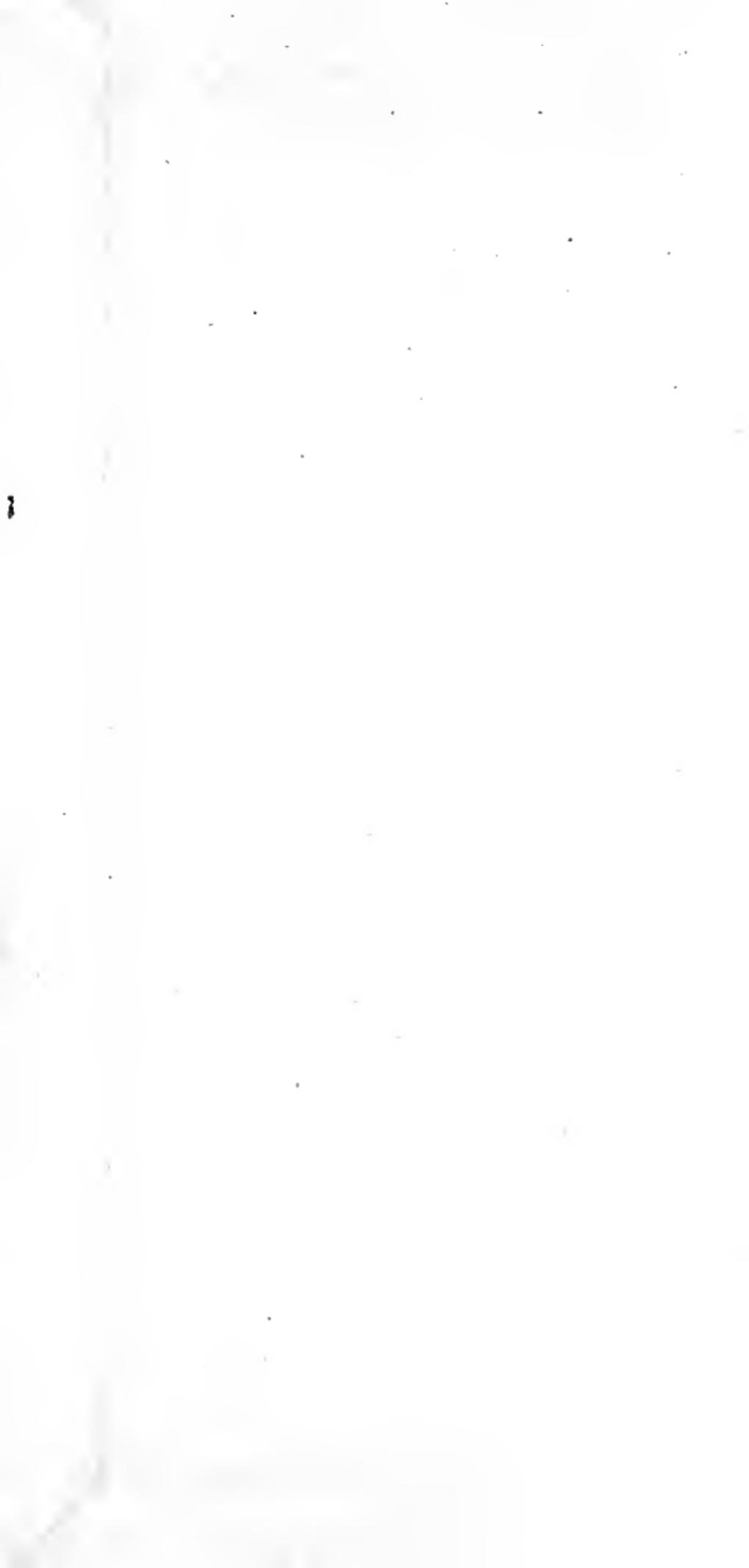
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TO  
MY FRIEND  
ES WHITCOMB RILEY









TO MY FRIEND



# TO MY FRIEND

By  
JAMES WHITCOMB RILEY



Decorated by  
Emily Hall Chamberlain



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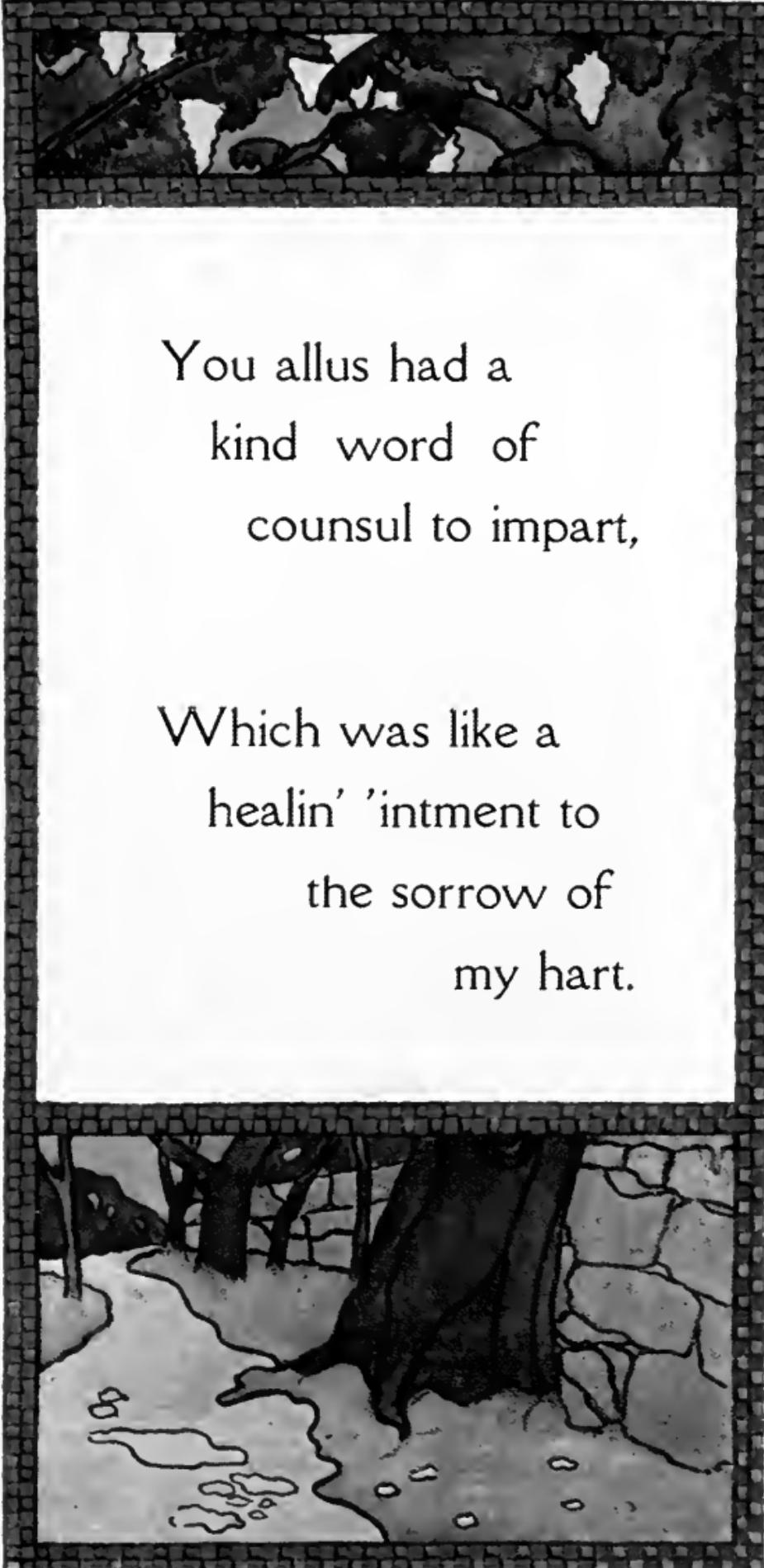
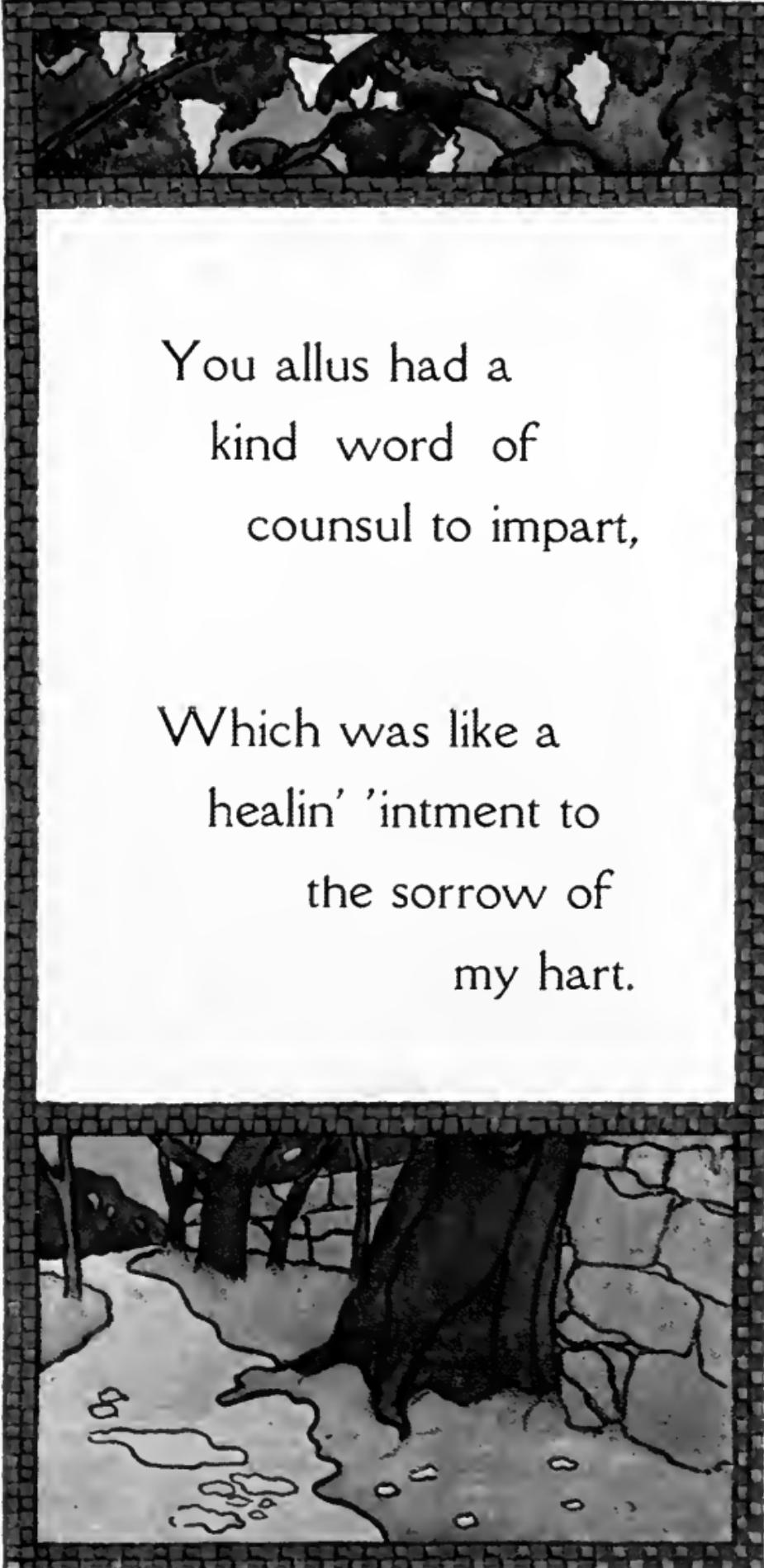
## TO MY FRIEND



ER forty year  
and better  
you have  
been a friend to me,

Through days of  
sore afflictions and  
dire adversity,





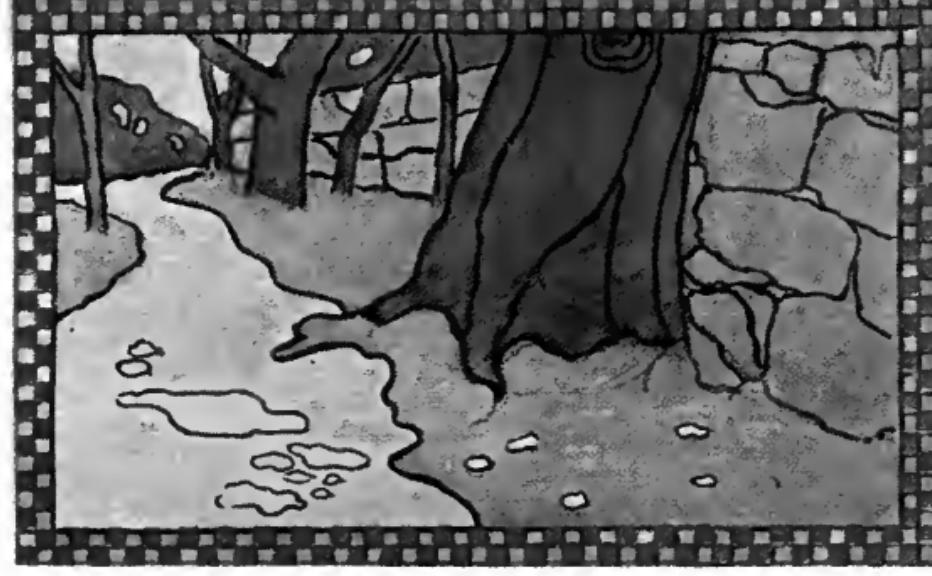
You allus had a  
kind word of  
counsol to impart,

Which was like a  
healin' 'intment to  
the sorrow of  
my hart.



At the last Old  
Settlers' Meetin'  
we went j'ntly,  
you and me—

Your hosses and  
my wagon, as you  
wanted it to be;

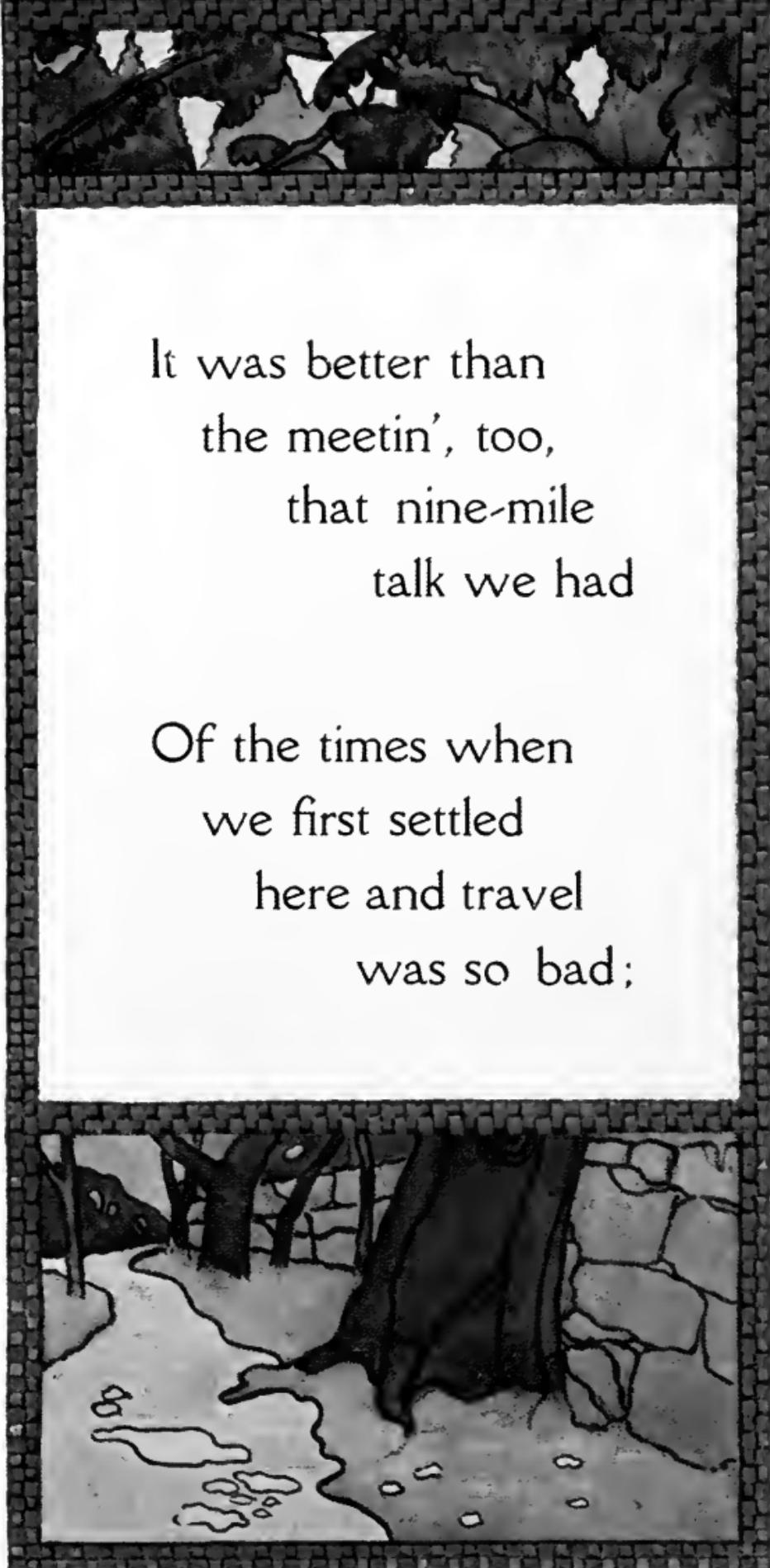




And sence I can  
remember, from  
the time we've  
neghbored here,



In all sich friendly  
actions you have  
double-done your  
sheer.



It was better than  
the meetin', too,  
that nine-mile  
talk we had

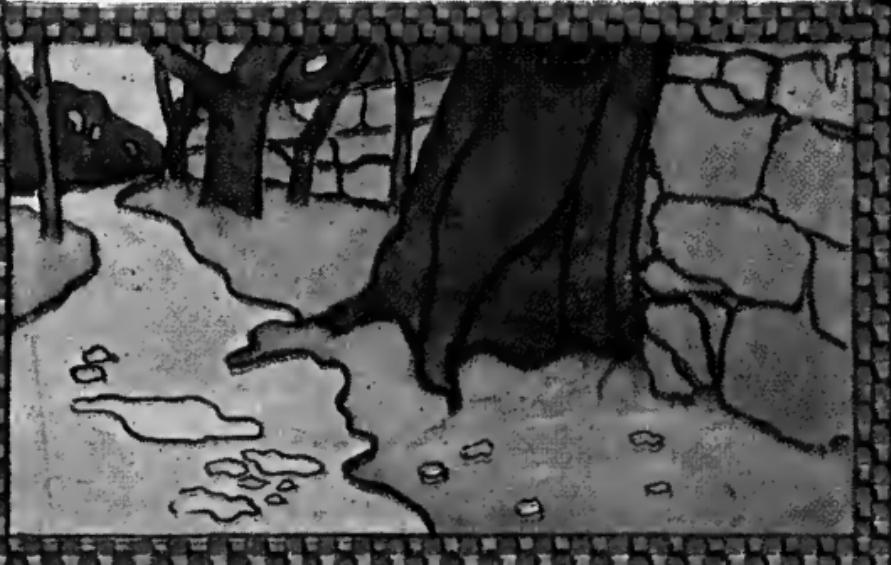
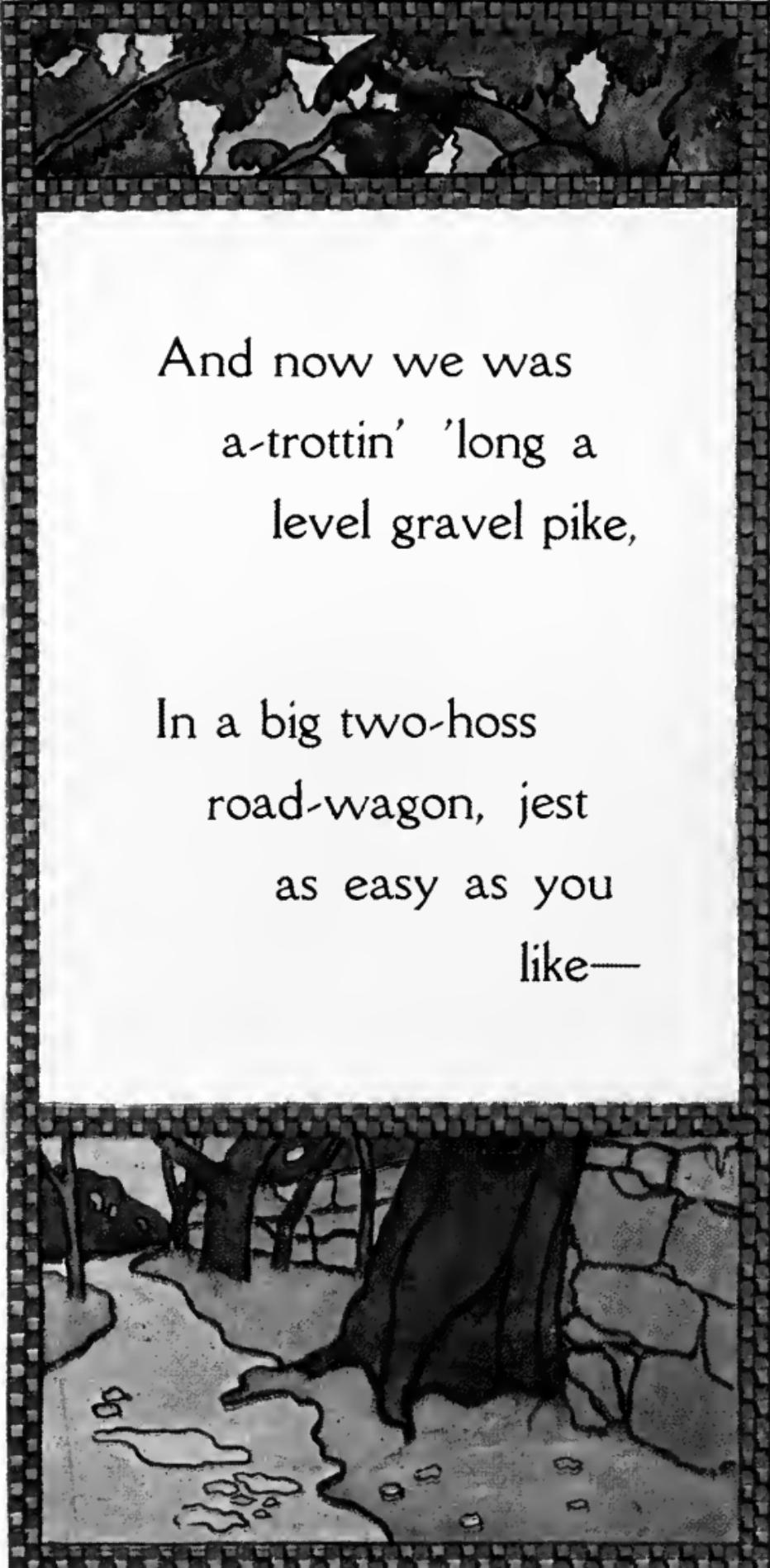
Of the times when  
we first settled  
here and travel  
was so bad;



When we had to  
go on hoss-back,  
and sometimes  
on "Shanks's mare,"

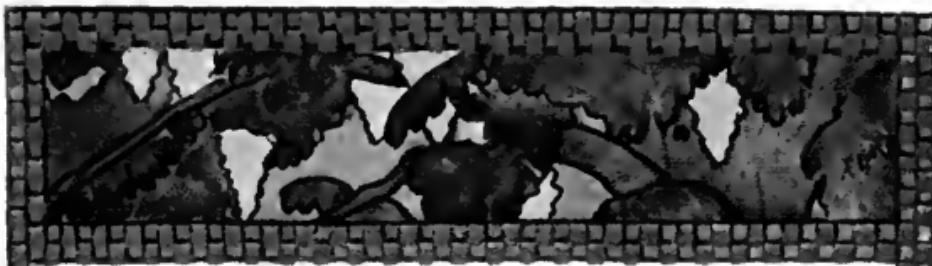
And "blaze" a road  
fer them behind  
that had to travel  
thare.





And now we was  
a-trottin' 'long a  
level gravel pike,

In a big two-hoss  
road-wagon, jest  
as easy as you  
like—



Two of us on the  
front seat, and our  
wimmern-folks  
behind,

A-settin' in theyr  
Winsor-cheers in  
perfect peace of  
mind!

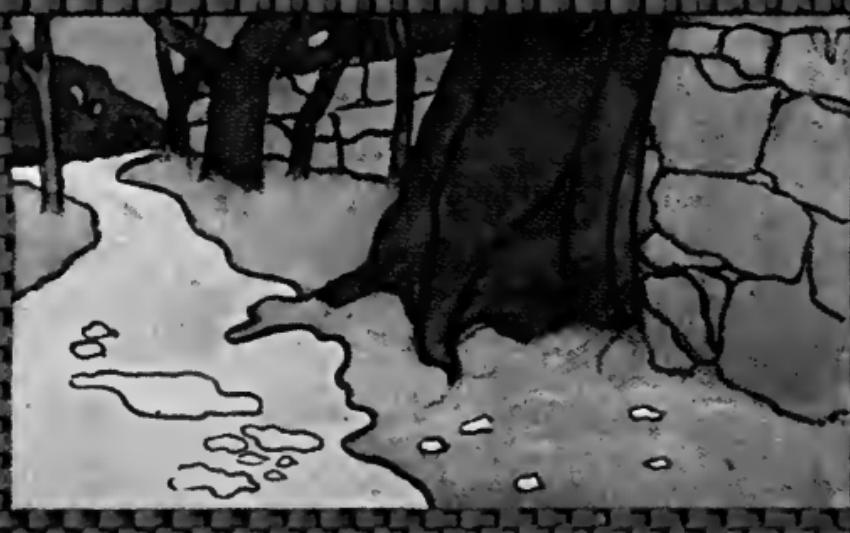
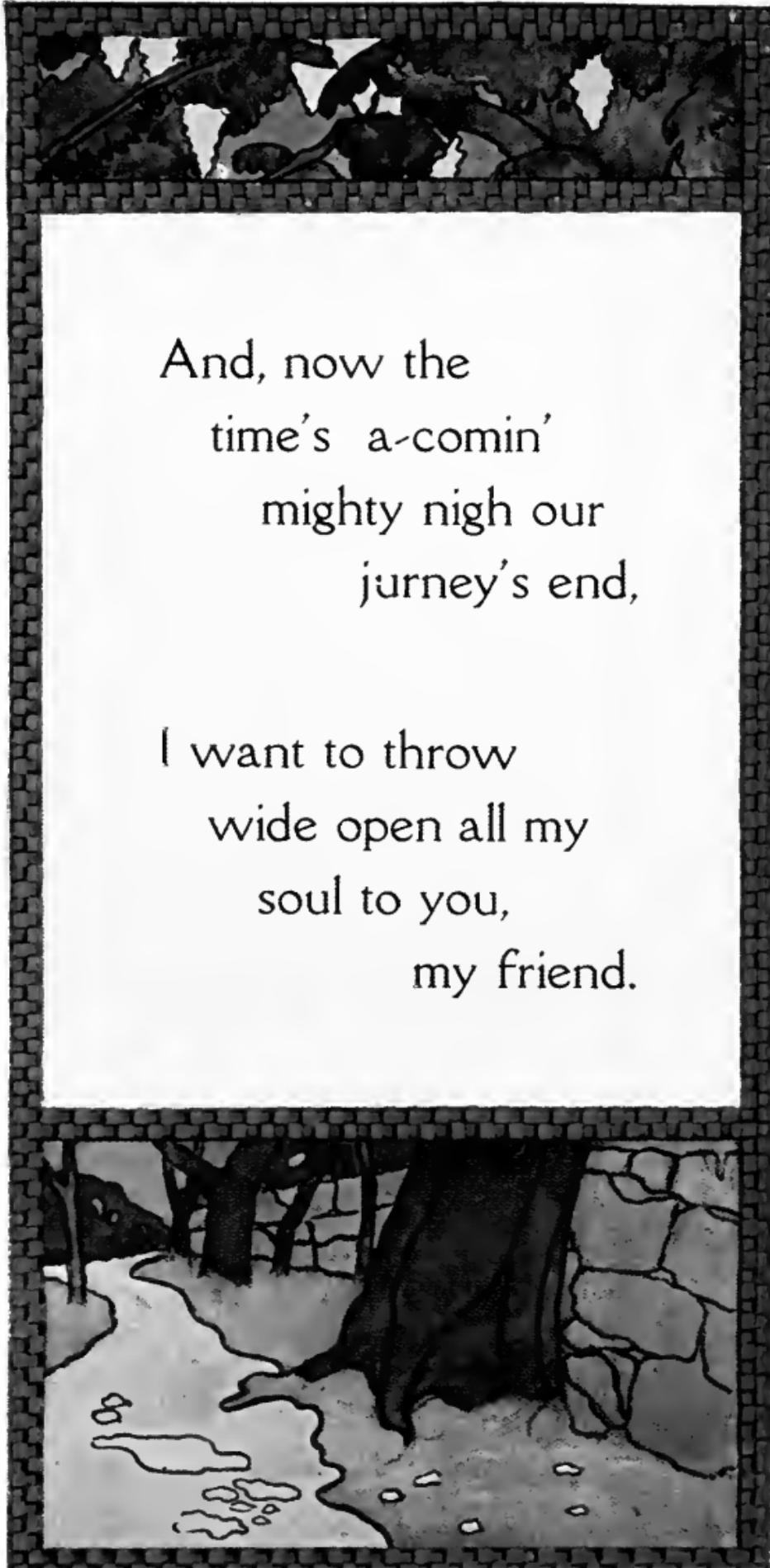




Ways was devius,  
William Leachman,  
that me and you  
has past;

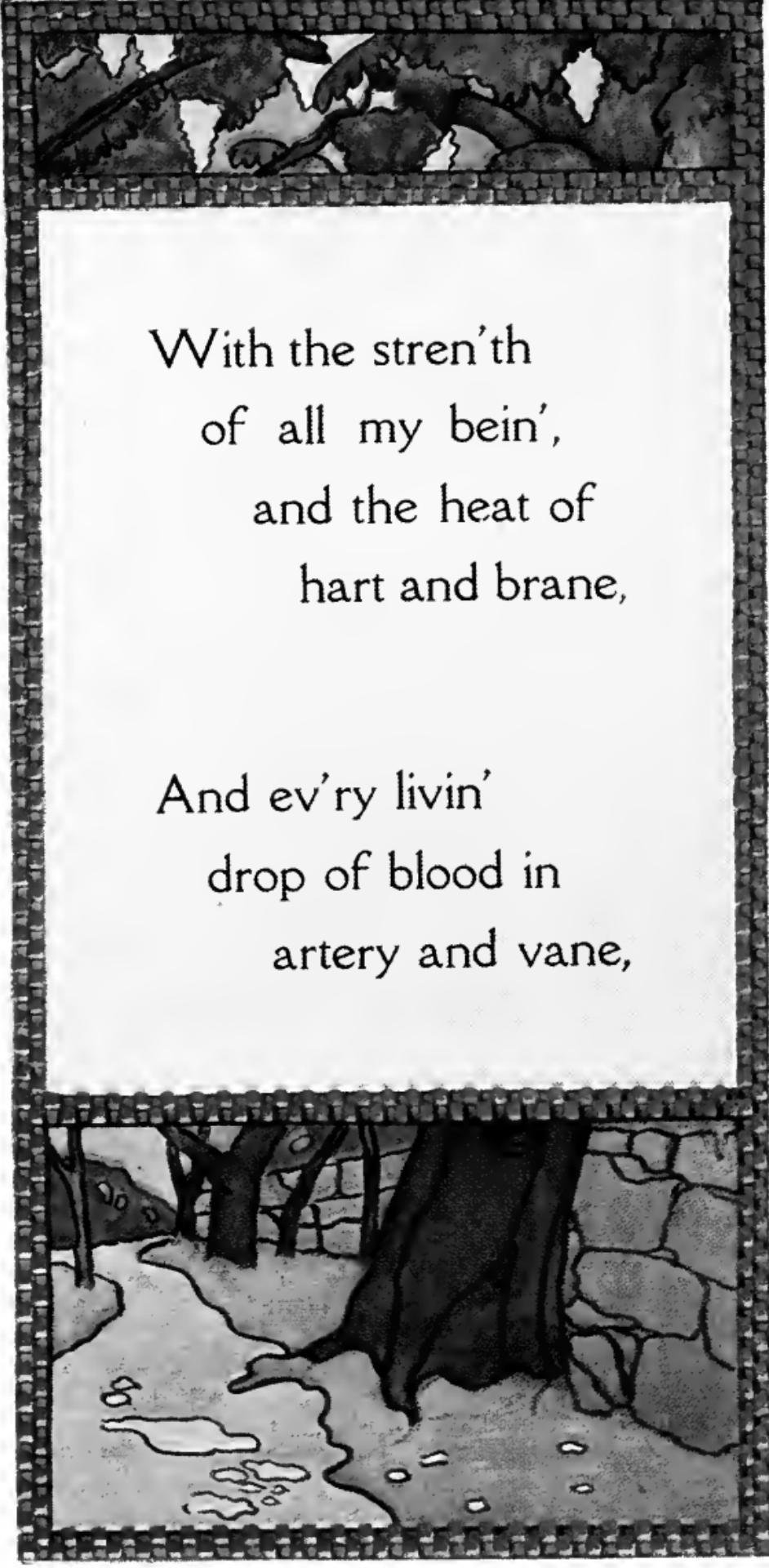
But as I found you  
true at first, I find  
you true at last;





And, now the  
time's a-comin'  
mighty nigh our  
journey's end,

I want to throw  
wide open all my  
soul to you,  
my friend.



With the stren'th  
of all my bein',  
and the heat of  
hart and brane,

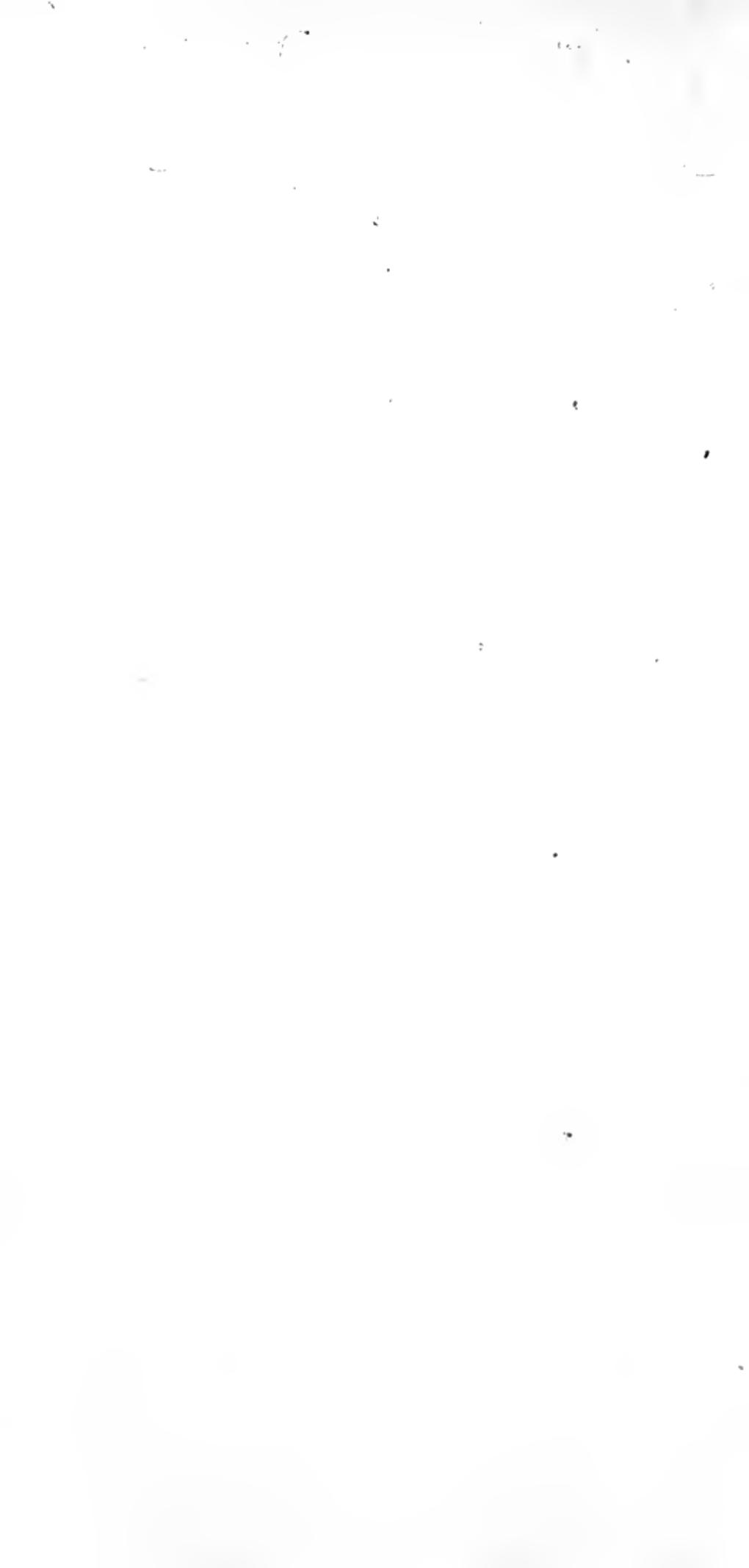
And ev'ry livin'  
drop of blood in  
artery and vane,



I love you and  
respect you, and  
I venerate your  
name,

Fer the name of  
William Leachman  
and True  
Manhood's  
jest the same!





APR 14 1983  
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Riley, James Whitcomb, 1849-  
1916.

To my friend,

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